

LESSON 3: ROMANS 1:8-32

Good News from God (cont'd)

1. Why does Paul thank God for the saints in Rome (v. 8)? Why should he find this so encouraging? What can we learn from this as a guide for our own life?
2. In verses 9-15, Paul expresses how greatly he longs to visit them in Rome. Why does he want to come? What is this sense of obligation to which he refers in verse 14? And why is he so eager to preach (v. 15)? In these verses we are shown something of the servant nature of following God. What marks of true spiritual service can be identified in these verses?
3. In verse 16, Paul writes that he is not ashamed of the gospel. Why? How does the world want us to be ashamed of the gospel today? What is the antidote to this tendency? What is the value of boldness in the gospel? What is your immediate response to the good news? What ought our reaction and sharing of the gospel be like? (See Isaiah 52:7-9.)
4. Martin Luther wrote that verse 17 became to him “a gateway to heaven.” Why would he consider this verse so significant? What does Paul mean when he writes that “for in it [i.e., in the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith”?
5. What does it mean to “live by faith?” How is it reflected in your personal life?

Righteousness and Wrath

6. In verses 18-23, what exactly is the sin of man sin against which God reveals his wrath? Can you give examples from the history of Israel?

7. How would you define ungodliness, unrighteousness, and suppression of the truth?

8. What has been the impact of sin on mankind's intellect and spiritual life?

9. God's wrath is often thought of as future judgment. But in verse 18 Paul states that God's wrath is now being revealed. How is this evident from these verses (vv. 24-32)?

10. How can God's allowing fallen man to have his own way be a form of punishment?

11. How would you define "sin"?

12. How does moral desecration reach its depths (v. 32)?

13. How would Paul respond to the very American statement that, "People are basically good?"

14. Some ask, "How could God condemn those who have never heard of him?" How is this question answered?